

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1187

By Curtiss

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Forestry Aid 2 Firefighter
M.L. Hopper of the Tennessee Division of
Forestry.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective well-being, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of service to others as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, these individuals daily face the rigors of corporal imperilment in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, Forestry Aid 2 Firefighter M.L. Hopper of the Tennessee Division of Forestry was one such outstanding public servant, and the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of his tragic and untimely death on August 24, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Forestry Aid 2 Firefighter Hopper served astutely with the Tennessee Division of Forestry for twenty-one years, during which time he earned the respect and admiration of his fellow firefighters and the adoration of a grateful public for his unsurpassed dedication and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, M.L. Hopper regrettably fell in the line of duty while leading a dozier for a proposed fire line barrier and clearing roads in Natchez Trace State Forest of logging debris and kudzu; and

WHEREAS, deeply respected in his position as firefighter, Forestry Aid 2 Firefighter Hopper's friends and fellow firefighters also knew him to be a deeply devoted family man, who always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, M.L. Hopper enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Excelle Hopper; and

WHEREAS, Forestry Aid 2 Firefighter Hopper leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting and serving his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Forestry Aid 2 Firefighter M.L. Hopper of the Tennessee Division of Forestry, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a firefighter and human being and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Forestry Aid 2 Firefighter Hopper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.